

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 12-13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

—R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -H and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, and halogen; and--

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 20-25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

—R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;--

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 28 to page 9, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

—In another embodiment, the compounds of the present invention are represented by formula I, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>9</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thiienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thiienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen; and--

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 6-9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

—wherein R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>9</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thiienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and--

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 13-14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

—wherein R<sup>1</sup> is R<sup>9</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thiienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl; and--

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 18-21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

$-R^1$  is selected from  $C_{3-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, wherein said  $C_{3-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halogen,  $-CF_3$ ,  $-OH$ ,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;--

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 23-26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

$-R^3$  is  $-H$ ,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, wherein said  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halogen,  $-CF_3$ ,  $-OH$ ,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 5-11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

$-R^1$  is selected from  $R^8-C(=O)-$ ,  $R^8-S(=O)_2$ ,  $R^8-S(=O)$ ,  $R^8-NHC(=O)-$ ,  $R^8-C(=S)-$  and  $R^8-NH-C(=S)-$ , wherein  $R^8$  is selected from  $C_{3-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; wherein said  $C_{3-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl are optionally substituted with  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halogen,  $-CF_3$ ,  $-OH$ ,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;--

Please replace the paragraph at page 18, lines 7-12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

$-R^1$  is  $R^9-CH_2-$ , wherein  $R^9$  is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thiienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thiienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolymethyl, triazolymethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolymethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halogen,  $-CF_3$ ,  $-OH$ ,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen;--

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, lines 10-14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

$-R^8$  is selected from  $C_{3-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; wherein said  $C_{3-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl,  $C_{6-10}$ aryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, and  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl- $C_{1-4}$ alkyl are optionally substituted with  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halogen,  $-CF_3$ ,  $-OH$ ,  $C_{1-3}$ alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and--

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 12-16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

—R<sup>8</sup> is selected from C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl; wherein said C<sub>3-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl, and C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl are optionally substituted with C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, halogen, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -OH, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and—